

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Page 15, fourth paragraph:

These and other objects and features of the present inventions will be more fully disclosed or rendered obvious by the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the invention, which is to be considered together with the accompanying drawings wherein like numbers refer to like parts and further wherein:

Page 16, line 10:

Detailed Description Of The Preferred Embodiments

Page 25, first full paragraph:

Apparatus 5 can be used to gather and fold tissue into a tube configuration, e.g., for treatment of GERD. More particularly, with effector mechanisms 35 in a closed position (e.g., Figs. 1 and 2), apparatus 5 is advanced down the esophagus and into the stomach. Next, and looking now at Fig. 5, effector mechanisms 35 are brought to the open position in the main body of the stomach. Then apparatus 5 is brought up to the angle of the stomach near the gastroesophageal junction (Figs. 6 and 7). Next, suction is applied to pods 25 (Fig. 8), thereby bringing tissue into proximity with outer surface of flexible tube 10 and the underside of effector wings 35. It

will be appreciated that, as this occurs, the tissue brought into proximity with the outer surface of flexible tube 10 will essentially form a neoesophagus. Then, effector mechanisms, or wings, 35 are brought to the closed position (Fig. 9). In so doing, the anterior and posterior pouches of stomach are folded around the outer wall of the neoesophagus. Staples 55 may then be activated so as to hold the walls of the tube of tissue TT together and secure the wrapped pouches in place, and the apparatus 5 removed (Fig. 10). In this way, a tube of tissue TT, having a lumen TL, can be created that is surrounded by pouches of stomach that are in luminal continuity with the main lumen of the stomach. In the context of the GERD therapy, it will be appreciated that this tube is effectively a wrapped neoesophagus which may minimize gastroesophageal reflux.

Page 27, lines, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13 and 19:

Furthermore, it should also be appreciated that, for various applications, it may be important to provide a ~~fluidtight~~ fluid tight tube of tissue TT. Thus, for example, where the apparatus 5 is to create a wrapped neoesophagus to treat GERD, it can be important to provide a ~~fluidtight~~ fluid tight tube of tissue TT. To this end, and looking now at Fig. 11, it may be beneficial to provide a ~~fluidtight~~ fluid tight material 65 on the underside of effector wings 35, so that the ~~fluidtight~~ fluid tight material 65 may be applied to outer wall of the tube of tissue TT created by apparatus 5. Staples (fired outwardly from flexible tube 10) may serve to hold the

~~fluidtight~~ fluid tight material 65 to the outside surface of the tube of tissue TT. Alternatively, stapling mechanisms of the sort well known in the art (not shown) may be provided on the underside of effector wings 35, whereby the staples 70 (using the outside wall of flexible tube 10 as an anvil) may secure the ~~fluidtight~~ fluid tight material 65 to the outer wall of the tube of tissue TT. See Fig. 12.

Page 28, last paragraph:

Effector mechanism 125 is adapted to open and close about an end pivot 140. A septum 145 has one portion anchored to effector mechanism 125 and another portion anchored to hollow tube 130. In one preferred construction, septum 145 enters the interior of effector mechanism 125 via a slot 150 (Fig. 16), and septum 145 enters the side wall of hollow ~~cylinder~~ tube 130 via a slot 155. The top portion of hollow tube 130, the underside of effector mechanism 125 and/or the septum 145 have suction pods 160 disposed therein, with suction being supplied to the suction pods 160 via flexible shaft 110. In this way, effector mechanism 125 can be opened relative to hollow tube 130, suction applied to draw tissue against effector mechanism 125, hollow tube 130 and/or septum 145, and then effector mechanisms 125 closed so as to reconfigure the tissue. Preferably the underside of effector mechanism 125 includes a plurality of staples 165 which can be fired out of the bottom of effector mechanism 125 by stapling mechanisms of the sort well known in the art (not shown).

Page 30, last paragraph:

Looking now at Figs. 25-29, in a third preferred embodiment of the present invention, an apparatus 205 comprises a flexible hollow tube 210 with an outer surface 215, an inner surface 220 and a central lumen 225. The sidewall 230 of flexible tube 210 may be solid, and/or the sidewall 230 of flexible tube 210 may be hollow through which other devices such as suction tubes, cables, wires, etc. may run.

Page 31, first paragraph:

Apparatus 205 includes an effector end 235 and an actuator end 240. The effector end 235 comprises a plurality of effector mechanisms 245. The effector mechanisms 245 can be parallel to but otherwise independent of one another (e.g., as a series of independent elements collectively forming the distal end of hollow tube 210) or one or more of the effector mechanisms 245 can be connected to one another (e.g., so as to form a slotted tube configuration, such as that shown in Figs. 25, 28 and 29). Each of the effector mechanisms 245 is provided with one or more suction pods 250 (only shown on some of the effector mechanisms 245 for clarity of illustration) for gripping tissue and one or more fastening elements 255. The fastening elements 255 may be any elements that are adapted to secure themselves to one another; in one preferred form of the invention, fastening elements 255 are magnets. The actuating actuator end 240 has

suction ports 260 which connect to suction pods 250, whereby suction may be applied to suction pods 250, and cables 270 to individually manipulate the relative position of effector mechanisms 245 (e.g., to move them longitudinally relative to the long axis of hollow tube 210, or to move them laterally relative to the longitudinal axis of hollow tube 210, etc.).

Page 32, last paragraph:

Figs. 30 and 31 ~~shown~~ show the same structure shown in Figs. 29-29, except that an additional fastener element 255A is provided on the device. This additional fastening element 255A can be placed anywhere in, on or around the device so that additional folds of tissue may be created.